

LAST EDITION.
EIGHT PAGES.

HARRIS KILLED.

The Wife Poison-
er Executed in
Sing Sing.

MADE A SPEECH.

"I Die Absolutely In-
nocent," Was What
He Said.

ASTONISHING NERVE.

Talked as He Was Being
Strapped in the Chair.

KILLED AT 12.40.30.

The Current Ran Through His
Body 55.45 Seconds.

SING SING, N. Y., May 8.—Carlyle W. Harris paid the penalty demanded by the law for poisoning his wife, Helen Potts, today.

As had been predicted by all who had witnessed his behavior throughout the long trial, he died with perfect calmness and without so much as a nervous tremor.

He died insisting still upon his innocence, and insisting in the same cool, argumentative tone which he has maintained throughout all his trial.

Many of the witnesses of the execution were more affected than he, one or two of them being quite unsteady.

It was 12:30 when the witnesses entered the execution chamber.

While they waited, the electrician Davis attached the wires to the battery of lamps and turned on 1,750 volts. He finished with the apparatus at 12:30 and announced that all was ready.

Principal keeper Connaughton and two guards then went for Harris. He was awaiting the final summons to his cell.

With him was Chaplain Wells. Harris was ready in a moment, and the little procession quickly formed.

Scenes had been placed in front of the other cells so that the men who will soon meet Harris's fate did not see him as he went with a guard on either side and the faithful chaplain following him.

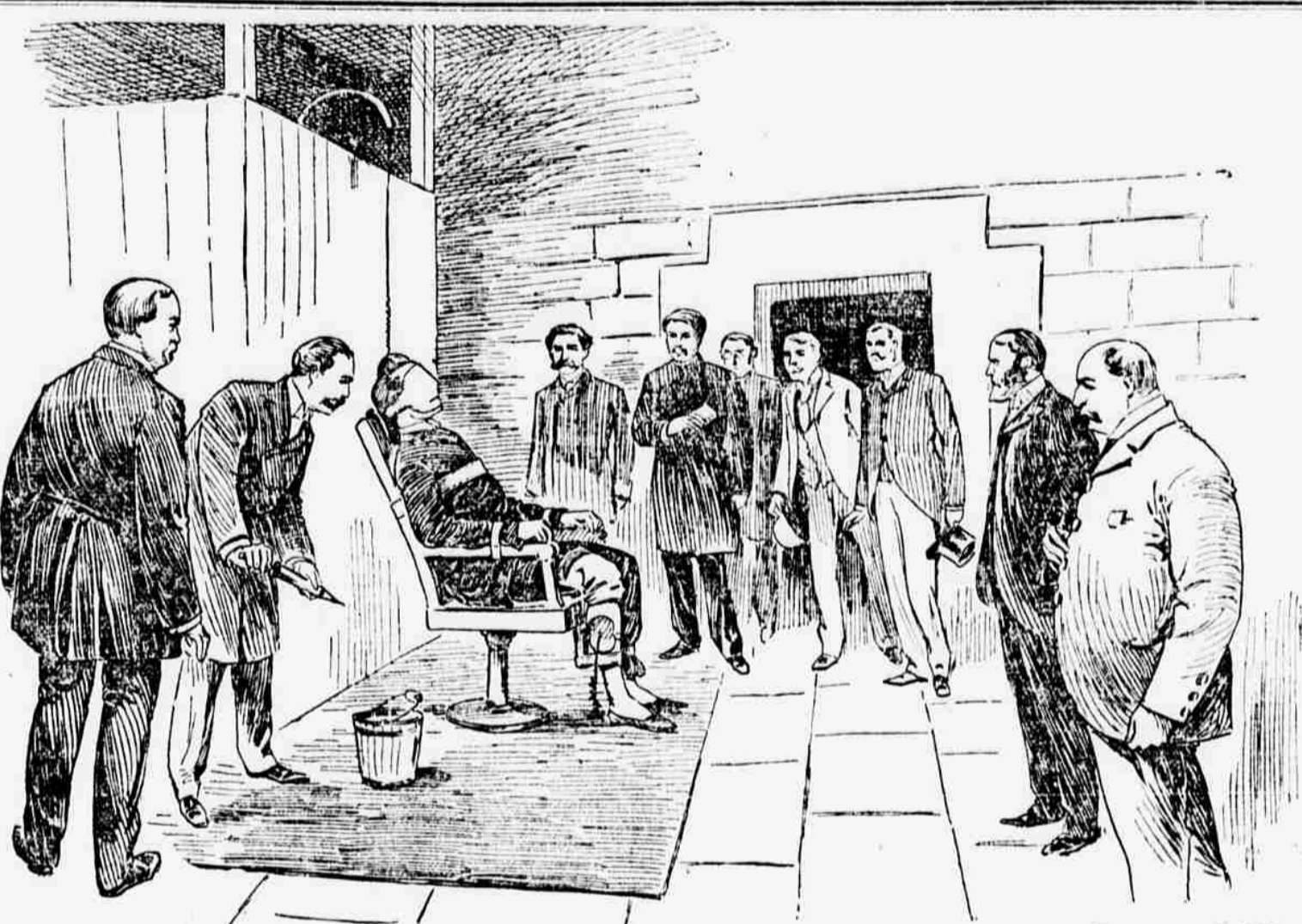
Walking from his cell in the death-house through the narrow and dark way to the execution chamber on the arm of Chaplain Wells, Harris increased pace to the chamber not as weak and emaciated from his long confinement, but as a stalwart young man.

His face was clean shaven and he looked much like a boy.

He glared at him deliberately, made a bow of acknowledgment to some of the newspaper men present and then, turning inquisitively to Warden Durston, said he desired to speak and believed he was the Warden's permission to do so.

Then, with a slight gesture, he said: "Gentlemen, I would like to say a few words."

"I believe I have the Warden's permission," said Warden Durston, "but I want to say that I die absolutely innocent of the charge of which I was convicted."



THE SCENE IN THE DEATH CHAMBER.

"All ready."

There was an instant's pause, while every man in the room held his breath.

Then Dr. Daniels raised his hand. A sharp click from the lever and the form in the chair straightened up till the straps cracked. It was just 12:40:30 by the stop watch held by Dr. Merritt.

A current of 1,750 volts passed through the body of Carlyle Harris.

In two seconds Davis turned the switch back so that only 150 volts were on.

Dr. Daniels still held his hand aloft and one finger pointed above as though to indicate that the soul of the man in the chair had passed upward.

Then his arm fell, and in just 55.45 seconds the current was shut off.

Drs. Irvine and Habershaw immediately stepped forward and examined the body, which had settled back limp in the chair.

Dr. Irvine opened the coat and vest and tore away the shirt over the heart.

He applied the stethoscope, and after listening for heart-beats, turned and shook his head.

This was two minutes after the first contact, and Dr. Daniels then invited the other physicians to step forward and examine the body.

Life was extinct, and it was plain to all who were present that death had come at the first touch of the current.

The only sign of animation after the current was turned on was a slow movement of the little finger of the right hand, and that was evidently due to muscular contraction caused by the current and not by the volition of the subject in the chair.

All the physicians present expressed themselves as satisfied that death had been instantaneous.

When all had examined the body Dr. Daniels turned to the witnesses and said:

"The witness who had seen other electrocutions agreed that this was the most successful one yet."

There was no sign of steaming at the points of contact, and, aside from a purplish tinge appearing on the skin, there was no change in the appearance of the body.

One of the newspaper men fainting and was carried out by friends. He recovered in a few minutes.

Mrs. Harris viewed the raising of the black flag from the window of her room in a building-house.

As the ominous signal floated on the soft breeze, she turned quietly away resigned and calm, as she had been for the past few days. She said she would see the newspaper men this afternoon and give them her statement.

At 12:54 Allan Harris arrived at the prison, and Principal Keeper Connaughton escorted him to the room in which the body of his brother lay.

He notified Warden Durston that an undertaker would call at the prison this afternoon to remove the body of his brother.

The witnesses were escorted to the Warden's office when all was over, and each one signed the official statement required by law.

Mrs. Harris, who was perfectly calm while making this statement, looked at its conclusion and returned to her room on the floor above.

The Final Preparations.

At 10 o'clock a gang of convicts began erecting the board partition which separates the death house from the rest of the Warden's residence. This was done to hide the scene from the public.

Warden Durston, who had visited Harris in his cell and told him the arrangements had been made for his execution and that he was to be hanged, arrived at the prison at 10:15.

At 10:15 Col. E. A. Rockwell and Dr. Daniels, who had been waiting in the autopsy, arrived at the prison.

A special interest was taken by the crowd in the expected arrival of George Fots, the father of Harris's victim, and who was described as a man of about 40 years of age.

of being present to witness the legal killing of his daughter's slayer.

The prison officials knew nothing officially of his coming, but it was said that, in any event, he would not be admitted to the death chamber, the law, while it intended that justice should be done, not favoring or permitting the machinery to be used in the wracking of personal vengeance.

By 10:15 the walls under the old prison were crowded with men and boys anxious to get a glimpse of anything connected with the execution.

Not until the first electrical execution at Sing Sing, when four men, Slocum, Spiller, Jucro, and Wood were put to death with the experimental apparatus in use, has there been such an interest displayed here.

The fact that Harris was really the first man with any pretensions to culture, refinement and intelligence who has taken his place in the electric chair was appreciated. The crowds on the bluff were not only larger but of a more intelligent class of people.

At 10:30 three witnesses had arrived: Col. Rockwell and Dr. Daniels, of Buffalo, Dr. C. S. Grant of Saratoga, Dr. D. E. Kidd of Newburgh, Dr. J. J. Yorkner, and Dr. D. J. McKim of Elmira.

At the same time Dr. Madden, of Sing Sing, the family physician of the District-Attorney, Dr. L. A. W. Smith, of New York, and Dr. J. J. Yorkner, of Newburgh, arrived.

At 10:30 Harris was shaved and had his hair cut by the prison barber. At most of the previous executions it has been his duty to shave only one spot on the victim's head, but in this case he was shaved all over.

Harris's hair was clipped tight to the scalp all over so that the fatal cap would fit snugly to the skull.

Previously to being strapped Harris had a brief conversation with Warden Durston, who was with him from 9 to 10.

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awaiting quietly as by the bedside of a dying one for the signal that would tell her that her boy was no more.

Asked Not for Spiritual Comfort.

What this brilliant young medical student saw in the death chamber, he said, he would not say. He was the dinner and the morning's breakfast should be.

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Harris there have been many published rumors concerning a supposed estrangement between the head of the family, Charles L. Harris, and Mrs. Harris and her sons and little daughter.

Considerable speculation was also indulged in as to the probability of a reconciliation between the father and mother as a result of the terrible affliction which had fallen upon them.

The unexpected departure of Mr. Harris from Sing Sing yesterday afternoon at first rather tended to strengthen the impression of an estrangement and a failure of the family to get together.

But the sudden departure of Mr. Harris was simply to make arrangements for the burial of the body of his own life as well as that of his lovely girl-wife.

If there had been an estrangement between Mr. and Mrs. Harris, there has been a reconciliation. In an interview with a Brooklyn World reporter, Mrs. Henry W. Ambler, at whose house on State street Mr. and Mrs. Harris and their son and daughter had been stopping, said:

"I know nothing of Mr. and Mrs. Harris's affairs. I am a stranger to them, and while I am reluctant to speak of them, I think it only justice to them to state the reports that have been circulated. I have been educated to tend to create a scandal, in addition to this unfortunate trouble which has befallen them."

"When Mr. Harris arrived in town he came directly here, his wife having arranged that he should do so. He was at the door, and showing him into the parlor, went up to Mrs. Harris's room and told her that her husband had come. She jumped up, clasped her hands and cried:

"Oh, I'm so glad! It's such a great relief to me."

She and her son Allan went right down to the parlor, and as they went in she rushed into Mr. Harris's arms, and they affectionately embraced each other."

A Reunited Family.

"The son was greeted in an equally affectionate manner."

There wasn't the slightest sign of an estrangement between the father and son, and I doubt very much if there were any grounds for the reports that have been circulated. I have been educated to tend to create a scandal, in addition to this unfortunate trouble which has befallen them."

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ris conversation with his father, said: "The father had been very kind and had after talking only about five minutes he had his son and daughter returned to the Warden's office."

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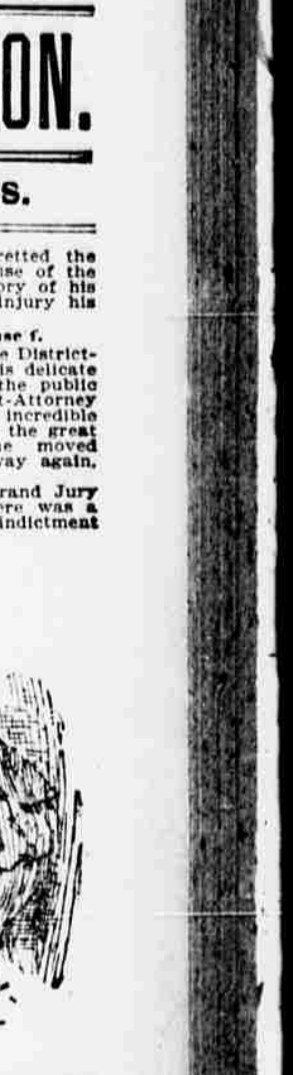
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